From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech, Presented by T-Mobile: FTC Said to Have Begun Questioning Amazon Competitors About Company"s Practices
Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 5:04:03 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

By Sam Sabin

Top Stories

- The Federal Trade Commission has begun questioning Amazon.com Inc.'s competitors about how the e-commerce company operates, according to a source briefed on the matter, as the agency reportedly takes on oversight of the company. The inquiries - which are said to have focused on Amazon's price structuring, the company selling its own products on the platform and service bundling - do not mean that the FTC is opening a formal antitrust investigation. (Vox)

- Amazon paid Ballard Partners, a firm run by an ally of President Donald Trump, to lobby against third-party vendors selling counterfeit goods, according to people familiar with the matter, with disclosure documents showing Amazon paying Ballard up to $70,000 quarterly from July 2018 until March 2019. A month after the lobbying firm's last recorded effort on the issue for Amazon, Trump signed a memorandum seeking to curb sales of counterfeit goods online. (CNBC)

- Illinois-based Pure Sweat Basketball Inc. and California-based app developer Donald Cameron filed a lawsuit against Apple Inc. alleging that the company forced the duo to sell their iOS apps through the App Store and charged developers a 30 percent commission for nearly 11 years on sales. An Apple spokesperson said the company does not comment on lawsuits. (The Wall Street Journal)

Chart Review

Tech, Media Layoffs Slow in April
The Information

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

06/05/2019

Apple's WWDC 2019	
Fiber Broadband Association's Fiber Connect conference	
IAB's NextGen Marketing conference	
Senate Commerce Committee's hearing on the television and video marketplace	10:00 am

Technology Policy Institute's event on C-band spectrum	12:00 pm
EPIC's panel on AI and human rights	1:00 pm
Senate Judiciary Committee's second hearing on the state of patent eligibility in the U.S.	2:30 pm
The Information's D.C. happy hour	6:00 pm
EPIC's Champions of Freedom Awards, including honorees Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Rep. Jan Schakowsky	6:30 pm

06/06/2019

Apple's WWDC 2019

FT Future of News	8:00 am
Bloomberg's "The Rise of 5G: Empowering the Next Enterprise Evolution" event	8:00 am
FCC's June Open Commission Meeting	10:30 am

06/07/2019

Apple's WWDC 2019

The Capitol Forum's conversation with former FCC Chairman and author Reed Hundt	12:15 pm

06/10/2019

Code Conference 2019

06/11/2019

Code Conference 2019

RightsCon

06/12/2019

Code Conference 2019

RightsCon

View full calendar

SPONSORED BY T-MOBILE

Creating Robust Competition in the 5G Era

Learn more about how the New T-Mobile will spread 5G nationwide, create 1,000s of new jobs, and assert U.S. leadership. Important investor information: NewTMobile.com

General

Tim Cook on tariffs, immigration and whether we spend too much time on our iPhones
Norah O'Donnell, CBS News

As tech companies face increased scrutiny, Apple is putting a focus on user privacy and making changes to some of its most well-known products. At Monday's Worldwide Developers Conference, the company announced it's developing new protections for users, showed off updated versions of iOS, and said goodbye to iTunes.

The Lawmakers to Watch as Congress Confronts Big Tech
Kristina Peterson, The Wall Street Journal

With the Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission planning increased antitrust scrutiny of Big Tech, Congress is eager to get in on the act. This week the House Judiciary Committee's antitrust panel said it would launch an investigation into competition in digital markets, beginning with a hearing on June 11.

Mexico Will Face Tariffs Next Week, Trump Vows
Maggie Haberman and Nicholas Fandos, The New York Times

President Trump on Tuesday said he plans to move forward with imposing tariffs on Mexican imports next week as part of his effort to stem the flow of migrants crossing the southern border, telling reporters at a news conference with British Prime Minister Theresa May that Republican senators would be "foolish" if they try to stop him.

Ecommerce groups sound alarm over EU security rules
Tim Bradshaw and Nicholas Megaw, Financial Times

Retailers and payment processors including Amazon, Worldpay and Stripe are warning that billions of dollars of online purchases are at risk because of a lack of industry preparedness for new EU-wide security regulations. New rules requiring an extra level of verification for most online payments above €30, known as Strong Customer Authentication, are set to come into force in September.

California gig economy legislation advances, could shape battle in other states
Jeff Daniels, CNBC

Several states may follow California's lead on proposed gig economy legislation that could add new labor protections for ride-hailing drivers working for Lyft and Uber. Assembly Bill 5 would essentially write into law standards adopted last year by California's high court to determine whether workers fall under the classification of an employee or independent contractor.

Does Facebook Have a Leaks Problem?
Max Read, New York Magazine

What mastermind created the infamous, slowed-down video of Nancy Pelosi - the one intended to make her sound drunk that went viral across right-wing media two weeks ago? Was it the product of Chinese meddling?

Stocks Extend Gains as Dollar Steadies; Oil Falls: Markets Wrap
Robert Brand, Bloomberg

A global stock rally sparked by dovish comments from the Federal Reserve chairman persisted into Wednesday, though it cooled somewhat amid lingering trade-war concerns. The dollar steadied after four days of decline.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

Top tech executives will be asked to testify in U.S. probe
Susan Cornwell, Reuters

Leaders of big tech companies will be asked to testify as part of an investigation into whether the companies misuse their massive market power, the head of the U.S. House Judiciary subcommittee leading the probe said on Tuesday.

The Apple WWDC Antitrust Scorecard
Mark Gurman, Bloomberg

Just minutes into Apple Inc.'s big annual bash to tout its latest wares, the Trump administration stole the show from Tim Apple. The company is among four Silicon Valley titans facing possible U.S. antitrust probes.

Telecom, Wireless and TV

House Makes First Pass at STELAR
John Eggerton, Broadcasting & Cable

The House began its review of the STELAR compulsory copyright legislation Tuesday (June 4) with a lengthy, wide-ranging discussion of video issues from short markets to cord-cutting, with frequent references from Democrats about putting consumers first, and all peppered with "dad gummits" and stronger from Patricia Jo Boyers president of BOYCOM Vision and vice chair of ACA Connects.

Verizon avoided a decade's worth of taxes-a new law could make it pay up
Jon Brodkin, Ars Technica

Verizon has avoided paying local taxes on telecom equipment in many New Jersey municipalities over the past decade, but a proposed state law would force the company to pay back taxes for all the payments it didn't make.

Mobile Technology and Social Media

A right-wing YouTuber hurled racist, homophobic taunts at a gay reporter. The company did nothing.
Eli Rosenberg, The Washington Post

Carlos Maza, a video producer for the news site Vox, said the harassment began about two years ago. Steven Crowder, a right-wing commentator and comedian, had begun to call out Maza's sexuality and his race - Maza is gay and Latino - in some of his videos on YouTube.

Russian Twitter trolls tested out multiple techniques to disrupt U.S. election
Kaleigh Rogers, CBC News

Russian agents tweeted about everyday topics like sports or trending hashtags to build followers, before switching to more divisive topics as part of a campaign to disrupt the 2016 U.S. presidential election, a new analysis has found.

Apple asks developers to place its login button above Google, Facebook
Stephen Nellis, Reuters

Apple Inc will ask developers to position a new "Sign on with Apple" button in iPhone and iPad apps above rival buttons from Alphabet Inc's Google and Facebook Inc, according to design guidelines released this week. The move to give Apple prime placement is significant because users often select the default or top option on apps.

Senator calls for FTC investigation into 'dangerous detox teas' on social media
Makena Kelly, The Verge

On Tuesday, Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) wrote to the FTC requesting a federal investigation into the sale of "detox teas" on social media that are pervasively marketed by influencers on social media.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

Authorities investigating claim that Baltimore ransomware group leaked documents to Twitter
Ian Duncan, The Baltimore Sun

Baltimore and federal authorities are investigating documents posted to a Twitter account that appeared to be tied to the hackers behind the city ransomware attack, a spokesman for Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young said Tuesday.

DHS Would Get At Least $2.9B for Tech, Cyber Under House Proposal
Aaron Boyd, Nextgov

The House Appropriations Subcommittee for Homeland Security released its draft spending bill Tuesday, including $898 million for specific technologies and research and almost $2 billion for the government's lead cybersecurity agency.

FBI database stokes worries over facial recognition tech
Emily Birnbaum, The Hill

Lawmakers are intensifying their calls for a temporary ban on the federal government's use of facial recognition technology after the disclosure that the FBI has amassed a database of more than 640 million photographs.

House Democrat places hold on State Department's move to establish cyber bureau
Maggie Miller, The Hill

Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, placed a hold Tuesday on the State Department's notification that it plans to establish a Bureau of Cyberspace Securities and Emerging Technologies (CSET), calling its proposed mission too narrow.

Google faces privacy complaints in European countries
Foo Yun Chee, Reuters

Google's privacy woes are set to increase after campaigners on Tuesday filed complaints to data protection regulators in France, Germany and seven other EU countries over the way it deals with data in online advertising.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

NAB's Hypocrisy Is Apparent in STELA Debate
Michael Huppe, Morning Consult

In ancient Greece, actors used to deliver lines wearing large masks so audiences didn't know who they really were. The word for these actors - literally translated as "an interpreter from underneath" - was hypokrites. It's where the word hypocrisy comes from, hiding one's real character or inclinations to appear virtuous.

Why Does Google Know Everything You've Bought on Amazon for the Past Six Years?
Charlie Warzel, The New York Times

Last month, CNBC reported on a page in Google's account settings titled "Purchases" - a month-by-month list of items you've bought across online services like Amazon and other apps that are collected via Google services like Gmail.

C-Band can quickly, cost-effectively deliver rural America to the internet

Claude Aiken, The Hill

Since the internet came online late in the last century, Americans have used it to communicate with each other in new and exciting ways. Case in point: Not only do we communicate with our friends and family via the Internet, we enable our things to "talk" to each other over the medium, too.

Research Reports

Facial Recognition Technology: DOJ and FBI Have Taken Some Actions in Response to GAO Recommendations to Ensure Privacy and Accuracy, But Additional Work Remains

U.S. Government Accountability Office

The FBI's face recognition office can now search databases with more than 641 million photos, including 21 state databases. In a May 2016 report, we found the FBI hadn't fully adhered to privacy laws and policies or done enough to ensure accuracy of its face recognition capabilities.

This email was sent by: Morning Consult
729 15th St. NW Washington, DC, 20005, US

Manage Subscriptions | Update Profile | Unsubscribe

SUBSCRIBE